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## Florida burger chain slated to open in Mentor

by IDALITA RASO

**MENTOR** - Municipal Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit for BurgerFi, a franchise out of Florida best known for its "hipster dogs" at its March 8 meeting.

The 3,500-square-foot freestanding building will be located at 9184 Mentor Ave. in the Mentor Commons Shopping Center, which is currently a vacant lot.

The BurgerFi franchise markets itself as an urban, sit-down restaurant that sells customizable burgers along with beer and wine.

The commission also heard preliminary site plans for BurgerFi. The owners are proposing a metal, freestanding, green urban concept building, with metal interlocking, recycled panels.

Although the board approved the preliminary site plan, the restaurant's final site plan will have to conform to city of Mentor's strict code regarding the design of buildings, wherein the building's overall design must be compatible with the existing buildings.

The board also approved a small wraparound patio with light background music, but added a stipulation that no food or bar preparation can be done outside.

Board Member Katherine Cimperman also asked for a sidewalk linking customers from the parking lot to the restaurant to be constructed.

When BurgerFi opens in Mentor, it will be the chain's first franchise in Ohio.

The board also approved a conditional use permit for a new FroYo Twist to open at 9662 Mentor Ave., which used to house Georgio's Pizza.

However the Planning Commission had concerns with the proposed outdoor dining.

"The outdoor dining in the back of the building may have safety issues. Also the dining area by the island area is tight. I'm not sure there is enough room for the four tables and 16 chairs," said Board Member Sean Blake.

Owner Ed Salmon agreed to work with the city to address the outdoor dining issues.

This will be the second FroYo Twist to open in the city in less than a year.

Meanwhile, Hooley House Sports Pub and Grille was set to have their annual St. Patrick's Day celebration as the commission passed a conditional use permit for the restaurant to play live, all-day, outdoor Irish music starting at 6 p.m.